

Mary Immaculate College Agreed Minute

The HEA acknowledges and appreciates the work undertaken by Mary Immaculate College in preparing the Compact Documentation submission in the context of this the first cycle of Strategic Dialogue. Documented feedback on the draft compact has been conveyed to Mary Immaculate College. This feedback has been informed by an extensive HEA exercise of evaluation of the submission, including analysis by an external panel set up to provide an independent assessment of the overall performance of the institution, against the backdrop of its mission.

HEA recognises that this is the first year of strategic dialogue and this is a developmental process. In year 2, HEA will have regard to the agreed outcomes of the dialogue process this year, including not only specific objectives and indicators proposed, but also any feedback to institutions regarding the overall composition of the compact. Institutions are expected to have regard to this feedback and to demonstrate that they have incorporated it into their processes for next year's cycle.

Subject to the above the HEA and Mary Immaculate College agree that the mission, planned profile and targets, as now set out in the accompanying Compact, are consistent with the national objectives set for the higher education system and are appropriate to the place of Mary Immaculate College within the system. This agreement takes full cognisance of the strategic dialogue meeting which took place on the 9th December 2013. **The following issues are taken from the Strategic Dialogue Meeting held on the 9th December 2013. It is recognised that this does not represent a full minute of the meeting but focuses on issues of particular importance.**

Meeting Ireland's Human Capital Needs

The HEA noted the central importance of job creation for the Government and the important role Higher Education plays in that domain. Mary Immaculate College agreed and noted the range of efforts underway to support this objective.

Institutional Consolidation/ ITE Review

The HEA will meet in January with UL and MIC to discuss the progress update report on the establishment of the new National Institute for Studies in Education, to ensure that the report substantively meets the recommendations of the international panel report on ITE.

The updated submission on the establishment of the centre of excellence is welcomed.

Regional Cluster

A cluster meeting will be held to agree a programme of initiatives, deliverables and timelines in which the two national priority objectives of joint academic planning and student pathways, into and within the cluster, should be brought out more clearly. This should have a greater focus on outcomes, particularly those concrete outcomes related to a single, improved, substantially rationalised BA offering, jointly planned and delivered between UL and MIC, and outcomes related to improved student transitions, pathways and increased participation etc.

Participation, Equal Access and Lifelong Learning

MIC to continue to review strategies to increase access to teacher education and other MIC courses for socio-economically disadvantaged groups and also, how a planned expansion in flexible/part-time provision will counterbalance the proposed reduction in participation of full-time mature students. It is noted that opportunities for collaboration and progress may arise as part of development of the regional cluster.